REMARKS

Claims 1-10 were pending at the time of examination. No claims have been amended, canceled or added. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration based on the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,320,988 to Yamaguchi et al. (hereinafter "Yamaguchi") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,009,435 to Taubin et al. (hereinafter "Taubin"). The applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claim 1 recites a computer-readable recording medium on which a program is recorded for causing a computer to, among other things, "acquire, in each frame display period, an amount of parallel movement of said cluster according to animation data defining a movement of said three-dimensional object and including an amount of parallel movement of said cluster in a plurality of frame display periods;".

The Examiner acknowledges that Yamaguchi does not teach "an amount of parallel movement of the cluster in current level and previous level" (Office Action, page 3). Even though this language is not recited in claim 1, the Applicant will, in the interest of compact prosecution, interpret the Examiner's statement to refer to the limitation recited above in the previous paragraph.

The Applicant agrees with the Examiner that Yamaguchi does not teach "an amount of parallel movement of said cluster according to animation data defining a movement of said three-dimensional object and including an amount of parallel movement of said cluster in a plurality of frame display periods." However, the Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's interpretation that it would have been obvious to modify Taubin's teaching for determining cluster indices into Yamaguchi's teaching for determining the movement of the nodes in directions parallel to the straight-line edge.

Taubin discloses a plurality of polygonal models and methods of creating representations of different resolutions of these polygonal models. Taubin also discloses methods for switching between the different resolutions of the polygonal models. The Examiner refers specifically to figures 6 and 7 of Taubin and states that these figures show that "Taubin et al. teaches a number of vertices of current level and previous level which corresponding to the movement of cluster" (Office Action, page 3). The "current level" and
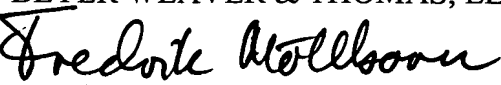
"previous level" of figure 6, however, correspond to the different resolutions of the same polygonal model. The polygonal model shown in figures 6 and 7 of Taubin is static. Thus, in Taubin, the "previous level" is not transformed to become the "current level." The "previous level" and "current level" are just two alternative representations of the same polygonal model. No "parallel movement" between image frames, as required by the Applicant's claim 1, is shown in Taubin. For at least this reason, claim 1 is neither anticipated nor obvious in view of Yamaguchi and Taubin, alone or in combination, and the rejection should be removed.

Claims 4 and 7-10 are in independent claim format and are not anticipated or obvious in view of Yamaguchi and Taubin, alone or in combination, for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1. Moreover, the dependent claims, 2-3 and 5-6, recite additional limitations, and are therefore neither anticipated nor obvious for at least the reasons discussed above with regards to claims 1 and 4, respectively.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Applicants hereby petition for an extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any further fee required in connection with the filing of this Amendment is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0388 (Order No. SIP1P041).

Respectfully submitted,
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